

Case Number:	CM14-0086482		
Date Assigned:	07/23/2014	Date of Injury:	05/03/2011
Decision Date:	09/19/2014	UR Denial Date:	05/12/2014
Priority:	Standard	Application Received:	06/09/2014

HOW THE IMR FINAL DETERMINATION WAS MADE

MAXIMUS Federal Services sent the complete case file to an expert reviewer. He/she has no affiliation with the employer, employee, providers or the claims administrator. The expert reviewer is Board Certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, has a subspecialty in Pain Management and is licensed to practice in California. He/she has been in active clinical practice for more than five years and is currently working at least 24 hours a week in active practice. The expert reviewer was selected based on his/her clinical experience, education, background, and expertise in the same or similar specialties that evaluate and/or treat the medical condition and disputed items/services. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

CLINICAL CASE SUMMARY

The expert reviewer developed the following clinical case summary based on a review of the case file, including all medical records:

This is a patient with a date of injury of 5/3/11. A utilization review determination dated 5/12/14 recommends non-certification of MS Contin. 5/14/14 medical report identifies MS Contin is working much better. Duragesic patch was burning his skin, but MS Contin and Norco combination works. Mental and overall condition is worse this year than before and some of it may be due to the psychotropic medications he is on, but without these, he is not able to control his anger, frustration, and depression. On exam, he uses a cane to walk. Medications were continued.

IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

The Final Determination was based on decisions for the disputed items/services set forth below:

MS Contin 15mg (60 tabs): Upheld

Claims Administrator guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Carpal Tunnel, low back and chronic pain.

MAXIMUS guideline: Decision based on MTUS Chronic Pain Treatment Guidelines Opioids Page(s): 76-79, 120 of 127.

Decision rationale: Regarding the request for MS Contin, California Pain Medical Treatment Guidelines state that, due to high abuse potential, close follow-up is recommended with documentation of analgesic effect, objective functional improvement, side effects, and discussion

regarding any aberrant use. Guidelines go on to recommend discontinuing opioids if there is no documentation of improved function and pain. Within the documentation available for review, there is no indication that the medication is improving the patient's function or pain (in terms of specific examples of functional improvement and percent reduction in pain or reduced NRS), no documentation regarding side effects, and no discussion regarding aberrant use. As such, there is no clear indication for ongoing use of the medication. In light of the above issues, the currently requested MS Contin is not medically necessary.